

WASHINGTON, D.C. ROLL CALL WEEKLY 2 0 0 2871

The man got a reading on his meter which indicated something underneath the floor, according to William Wise, Bayh's press secretary. "So we took a poker and banged on the freor till we didn't get a reading any more," Wise recalls.

The Senate Sergeant-at-Arms, Robert C. Dunphy, is requested at least once a month to trace Senators' telephone lines for taps. He uses a special electronics aide along with the assistance of telephone company experts. However, no taps have been found.

Ironically, a Senate sub-committee is currently investigating recent allegations of widespread spying on civilians and politicians by the military. The hearings, chaired by Sen. Sam Ervin (D-NC), were prompted by a former army intelligence agent who disclosed that the Army spied on several politicians including Sen. Adlai Stevenson (D-III) and Rep. Abner Mikva (D-III).

Although Attorney-General John Mitchell himself has said he would not approve taps of Members of Congress and would fire anybody under him who attempted it, surveillance could nevertheless be carried out by several other federal agencies with or without the knowledge of the Justice Department.

Actively accumulating data and compiling dossiers on Americans although not necessarily authorized to do so by law have been the Secret Service, FBI, Justice Department, State Department, CIA, Civil Service Commission, Internal Revenue Service, Defense Department, and the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare.

Ervin, one of the Senate's leading constitutional authorities, has been alarmed over government snooping for some time and is now more convinced than ever that some sort of "right to privacy" legislation must be introduced.